

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system is provided for increasing participation in a standby router protocol (SRP) without increasing the amount of network traffic due to SRP messaging. One or more domain master VLANs participate in an SRP on behalf of numerous member VLANs belonging to the domain master VLAN's domain. The domain master VLANs are associated with at least one virtual router. Each domain member VLAN follows the current default routing configuration for the domain master VLAN as determined in accordance with the SRP election process defined for that virtual router. An end-host attached to a host-specific port on an SRP router participates in the SRP by using a router bridge connection established between the SRP router and other SRP routers supporting the virtual router. Each end-host on a host-specific port follows the current default routing configuration implemented by the current master SRP router as determined in accordance with the SRP election process defined for that virtual router.